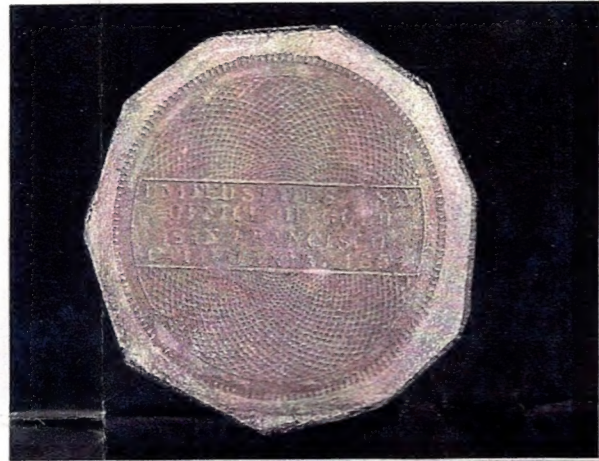


The last lead piece from this group, **Coin #10**, does not appear to be from the Franklin hoard dies, and bears a striking resemblance to the Michelson/Connecticut State Library collection specimens. While clearly predating the Franklin Hoard, the identity of this probable **fantasy** made for collectors is unclear but likely was created by Philadelphia coin dealer Stephen Nagy. Nagy was the son-in-law of dealer J.W. Haseltine who was himself the son-in-law of Philadelphia Mint employee William Idler. Apparently many of the U.S. Assay Office dies were returned to the Philadelphia Mint after the San Francisco Mint was erected in 1854. Those dies remained in their vaults until they were "rediscovered" and employed by Nagy at the Philadelphia Mint around 1908-1912.



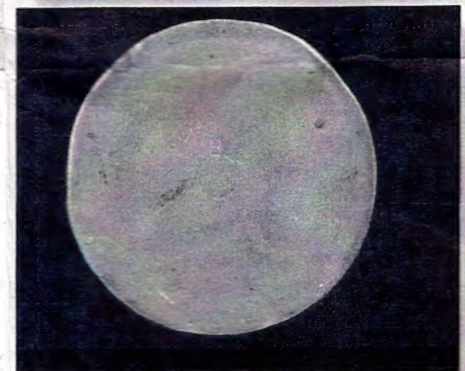
Lump under T of UNITED
E in AMERICA has no left
upper serif
E in TWENTY has no lower
left serif
E in UNITED has no upper left serif
E in STATES almost has no left
upper serif.



One of two copper pieces from the group, the "1853 Copper \$20," **Coin #11** appears to be an intriguing forgery. While the copper alloy is one commonly used for patterns by the US Mint, and it has

the proper number of reeds around the edge (164 reeds) are plausible attributes of a genuine pattern, the unsuccessfully copied design and poor field qualities render considerable doubt about this coin's authenticity. This piece is most likely a transfer die **copy forgery** made by the spark-erosion process. However, Coin #11 cannot be from the Franklin dies as those coins all are struck from a 170 reed collar. Its origin remains unsolved.

*My count was 162 reeds
on mine.*



The remaining two lead pieces remain from this study group are likely **fantasies**. Upon simple inspection one will notice that the design is poorly executed and weak on **Coin #12**, the lead "900 Thous. 1853 \$20." The odd "1850 \$50" would not even fool the most inexperienced, as the Assay Office was not incorporated until 1851, and the piece has the detail and artistic sophistication of a chocolate foil coin.

"Historically, the United States mint has made few lead trial pieces..."